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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/970,929	10/05/2001	Jun Koyama	0756-2368	3139
31780	7590	05/22/2009	EXAMINER	
ERIC ROBINSON			KUMAR, SRILAKSHMI K	
PMB 955			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
21010 SOUTHBANK ST.				2629
POTOMAC FALLS, VA 20165			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/22/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/970,929	Applicant(s) KOYAMA ET AL.
	Examiner SRILAKSHMI K. KUMAR	Art Unit 2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(o).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2009.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18,73-90, 145, 147-152, 154-159, 161-166, 168-174, 177 and 178 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-18, 73-90, 145, 147-152, 154-159, 161-166, 168-174, 177 and 178 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Final Drawing Review (PTO-444C)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The following office action is in response to the amendment filed on January 26, 2009. Claims 1-18, 73-90, 145, 147-152, 154-159, 161-166, 168-174, 177 and 178 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 73, 75, 76, 82, 84, 85, 145, 152, 159 and 166 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-18, 73-90, 145, 147-152, 154-159, 161-166, 168-174, 177 and 178 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

With respect to claims 1, 73, 145 and 159, Applicant claims "wherein the first unit is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of first level shifters while the plurality of second stages of the shift register output the pulses, and wherein the second unit is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of second level shifters while the plurality of first stages of shift register output the pulses." The specification does not teach where the first unit and second unit are configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters.

Appropriate correction is required.

With respect to claims 10, 82, 152 and 166, Applicant claims "wherein each of the first to x-th units is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters while the

plurality of stages of the shift register in the other units output the pulses". The specification does not teach where the first to x-th units are configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters. Appropriate correction is required.

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-18, 72-81, 83-90, 147-151, 154-158, 161-165, 168-174, 177 and 178 are rejected as they depend upon rejected base claims.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-18, 73-90, 145, 147-152, 154-159, 161-166, 168-174, 177 and 178 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claims 1, 73, 145 and 159, applicant claims "a first unit comprising....a plurality of first level shifters....a second unit comprising...a plurality of second level shifters...wherein the first unit is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of first level shifters....wherein the second unit is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of second level shifters..." Examiner is unclear as to how the first unit stops supply of currents to the plurality of first level shifters when the first unit comprises the level shifter; and how the second unit stops supply of currents to the plurality of second level shifters when the second unit comprises the level shifter. Appropriate correction is required.

With respect to claims 10, 82, 152 and 166, applicant claims "each of the first to x-th units comprising:....a plurality of level shifters...each of the first to x-th units is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters...." Examiner is unclear as to how the

first to xth units stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters when the first to x-th units comprise the level shifters. Appropriate correction is required.

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-18, 72-81, 83-90, 147-151, 154-158, 161-165, 168-174, 177 and 178 are rejected as they depend upon rejected base claims.

Claim Objections

The use of parentheses in the claims are improper, since the parentheses are used only for reference characters, see MPEP 608.01(m). Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18, 73-90, 145, 147-152, 154-159, 161-166, 168-174, 177 and 178 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SRILAKSHMI K. KUMAR whose telephone number is (571)272-7769. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sue Lefkowitz can be reached on 571 272 3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Srilakshmi K Kumar/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2629

May 20, 2009
SKK